



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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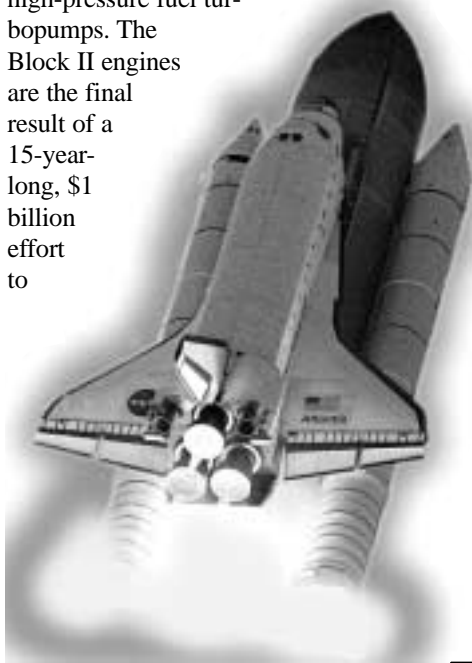
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John C. Stennis Space Center

April 22, 2002

Atlantis' lift off marks milestone for SSME

When the crew of STS-110 launched Monday, April 8, they were the first astronauts to ride on three of NASA's newest and safest Space Shuttle Main Engines. The Block II engines, tested at Stennis Space Center, are equipped with new Pratt & Whitney high-pressure fuel turbopumps. The Block II engines are the final result of a 15-year-long, \$1 billion effort to



make the shuttle's engines more powerful, safer to fly and less costly to maintain.

The new engines feature fewer welds, stronger integral shafts and disks, and more robust bearings, making the engines safer and more reliable and potentially increasing the number of flights between major overhauls.

The first Block II engine, flight-certified at Stennis Space Center in February 2001, was flown on Atlantis July 12, 2001.

"Acceptance of the Block II was a major milestone," NASA's Pat Mooney, Space Shuttle Main Engine Project Office manager at Stennis Space Center, said. "Seeing a full complement of the engines being used is a satisfying accomplishment for many people."

Companies in 17 states contributed to the

Space Shuttle Atlantis roars into the clear blue sky on mission STS-110 at 3:44:19 p.m. (CDT) April 8. Atlantis is the first shuttle to fly three improved, safer and more reliable Block II main engines.

See **BLOCK II** Page 7

Administrator outlines NASA's vision for future

In a speech April 12 at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, N.Y., NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe shared his strategic vision for NASA's future.

"The nation faces extraordinary new challenges. The world is changing, and if NASA is going to exploit these new opportunities, then America's space program must also change," said Administrator O'Keefe. "Our future decisions will be science-driven, not destination-driven. The investments we make today must be justified by their contributions to the long-range goals of the Agency."

Administrator O'Keefe spelled out NASA's vision and mission:

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Stennis joins national EPA program

Stennis has joined the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Environmental Performance Track, a program designed to motivate and reward top environmental performance.

NASA's Ron Magee, environmental officer at Stennis Space Center, will receive a certificate of participation from EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman April 24. The ceremony coincides with the national weeklong observance of Earth Day 2002.

Through a systematic



approach to managing environmental responsibilities; taking extra steps to reduce and prevent pollution; and being good corporate neighbors, participating facilities are leading

the way to environmental excellence while saving money and improving productivity. Performance Track defines what it means to be a top environmental performer and provides incentives to motivate further improvements.

"We were not surprised to

See **EPA**, Page 8



Stennis Space Center Director Roy Estess and Deputy Director Mark Craig greet NASA personnel prior to an April 15 all-hands meeting to review details of NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe's remarks concerning the Agency's future mission. Craig served on the committee that worked to create the new vision for NASA's mission. The meeting also served as an opportunity to welcome Estess, who had been serving as acting director for Johnson Space Center, back to Stennis.

Goals set for Earth science applications

NASA's Ronald J. Birk, newly selected assistant to Dr. Ghassem R. Asrar, associate administrator, Earth Science Enterprise (ESE) at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., recently presented ESE's applications strategy for fulfilling its 2002-2010 mission to members of the Earth Science Applications Directorate (ESAD) at Stennis. ESAD manages NASA's ESE applications program.

The enterprise mission focuses on several specific areas. These include weather and climate, agricultural competitiveness, aviation safety, smart growth, homeland security, public health, disaster management, coastal management, biological invasive species management, water management and water conservation. Each ESE mission goal must meet independent assessments of socioeco-

nomie value and be consistent with the President's agenda and the national agenda, Birk explained.

The presentation featured a video depicting NASA systems that may, in the future, be integrated into daily life through weather forecasting devices, climate change tracking and natural hazard management. The video tracked the activity of fictional hurricane "Gary," and made best- and worst-case scenario predictions of the storm's effects. Future NASA systems may also be able to predict the effects of weather trends six months in advance and predict earthquakes two weeks in advance.

Birk recognized Stennis for "16 years of tremendous value through a network of activities and capacity for research partnerships with academic, private and public sectors."

Centers gear up for implementation of new Integrated Financial Management Program

NASA has begun implementation of a process aimed at providing the Agency with a modern, leading edge business system. The Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) will provide compliance with external regulatory guidance and promote standardization and integration of business processes and systems across the Agency. IFMP will provide the management information needed for mission success and meet information needs of both internal and external customers.

"IFMP is an umbrella of projects that will fundamentally change how we at Stennis do lots of things, from applying for jobs and keeping our time to paying our bills and developing our budgets," NASA's David Carstens, Deputy Director, Center

Operations and Support Directorate and IFMP manager, said. "IFMP is a very large, comprehensive automation aimed at standardizing many functions across NASA."

Carstens acknowledged that processes like this have been tried before. "The current effort is number three or four, depending on how you count them," he said. "However, the present IFMP will succeed for several reasons. First, the software that has been chosen is mature and proven in its application in private industry. Second, the contractor chosen is willing to work hard to 'federalize' the software so it can then sell it to other federal agencies. And

See IFMP Page 7

NEWSCLIPS

Space-greenhouse technology helps fight bioterrorism:

Building miniature greenhouses for experiments on the International Space Station (ISS) has led to the invention of a device that can destroy Anthrax. In the early 1990s, researchers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and the Wisconsin Center for Space Automation and Robotics discovered that ultra-thin layers of titanium dioxide, when exposed to ultraviolet light, convert the potentially destructive plant by-product ethylene into carbon dioxide and water — substances that are good for plants. The ethylene scrubber developed from this discovery and used for plant experiments on the ISS has a by-product of its own, hydroxyl radicals. The hydroxyl by-product disrupts organic molecules and is deadly to Anthrax and many other pathogens.

NASA opens a window to the study of the cosmos and its tiniest constituents:

Chandra X-ray observations reveal that one star is too small to reconcile with standard models for neutron stars, and another has a temperature far below the predicted value. These observations suggest that the matter in these stars is even denser than nuclear matter found on Earth and raises the possibility these stars are composed of pure quarks or contain crystals of sub-nuclear particles that normally have only a fleeting existence following high-energy collisions. These precise observations demonstrate the ability to use the universe as a laboratory where study of the most fundamental questions in physics can be made. NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., manages the Chandra program.

NASA celebrates with solar X-ray fireworks:

Just in time for the second annual Sun-Earth Day, March 20, the Reuven Ramaty High-Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager spacecraft, or RHESSI, made its debut by observing a huge explosion in the atmosphere of the Sun equal to one million megatons of TNT and emitted powerful bursts of X-rays. Sun-Earth Day is sponsored by NASA's Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum. Goddard Space Flight Center manages the RHESSI mission for NASA's Office of Space Science in Washington, D.C.



Mike Garrett, left, chief executive officer of Mississippi Power Company toured Stennis Space Center April 9. He met with Stennis Deputy Director Mark Craig, right, and representatives of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, the Earth Science Applications Directorate and the Naval Oceanographic Office.

International Space Station Status Report

Astronauts assigned for space station expedition training

As continuous habitation of the International Space Station (ISS) nears the 18-month mark, NASA has named crewmembers to begin training for future long-term expeditions to the orbiting research facility.

Three crewmembers have been assigned to train for the ninth expedition aboard the station. Veteran Russian cosmonaut Gennady I. Padalka will serve as station commander, and first-time flyers, astronaut E. Michael Fincke and cosmonaut Oleg D. Kononenko, will serve as flight engineers for Expedition Nine.

Padalka previously served as commander of Russian Space Station Mir Mission 26 and ISS Expedition Four backup commander. A graduate of the Eisk Military Aviation College, he served as pilot and senior pilot in the Russian Air Force.

Fincke, a member of the 1996 astronaut class, served as backup flight engineer for Expedition Four. He has two bachelor's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University, and a master's in physical sciences (planetary geology) from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Kononenko has a degree from the Kharkov Aviation Institute and a post-graduate degree from the Kuibyshev Aviation Institute, Samara.

Astronaut Daniel M. Tani, who flew in space for the first time aboard STS-108 in December 2001, will serve as Fincke's backup for Expedition Nine.



Astronaut Rex Walheim, STS-110 mission specialist, is anchored to the mobile foot restraint at the end of the International Space Station's (ISS) Canadarm2. During the first scheduled session of extravehicular activity, he worked on data connections between the station and the S-Zero truss.



NASA increases security Agency-wide

One of the first things David Saleeba did after taking the helm as assistant administrator of the Office of Security Management and Safeguards at NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C., was to tour the headquarters building looking for weaknesses in security.

A former Secret Service agent, Saleeba immediately had the paper recycling boxes inspected. He found personnel records, contracting information and other confidential documents in almost every receptacle.

For Saleeba, this discovery reiterated the need for a comprehensive Agency-wide Operations Security (OPSEC) program. Ike Hendershot, Director of Special Programs, will develop and coordinate the program for NASA.

Hendershot, also a former Secret Service agent, said, "The ultimate goal of OPSEC is to deny an adversary the critical organizational information that is not intended for disclosure. This does not mean that the program would prevent the appropriate sharing of data, facts, knowledge, technology or scientific accomplishment.

"Many agencies don't always realize how much critical information they are actually giving away by predictable behav-

ior, casual conversation, routine messaging, internet exchange and refuse disposal. Careful attention must be applied to what is revealed. Failure to do so could provide adversaries with the information they need to compromise the Agency."

Hendershot said a viable and complete OPSEC program will increase operational effectiveness and safeguard efficiency by preventing the inadvertent compromise of classified and/or unclassified but sensitive information concerning the Agency's activities, capabilities, intentions and personnel.

According to Hendershot, OPSEC is a training and awareness program, not a faultfinding process. For an agency to operate successfully, employees must be aware of daily activities that may reveal sensitive information.

Ideally, a comprehensive NASA-wide OPSEC program will help prevent or negate these vulnerabilities. OPSEC also can benefit NASA employees and their families. Employees can take the knowledge learned from the program and use it to protect themselves.

The program will formulate policy, and establish, coordinate and administer training and awareness programs.

Propulsion customers briefed on capability of Stennis test assets at Customer Day 2002

More than 70 aerospace industry leaders and media from around the nation met at the Stennis Space Center April 16-17 to learn more about the center's unique rocket engine test capabilities as part of NASA's Propulsion Test Customer Day 2002.

Throughout the two-day event, engineers and technicians listened to comments from industry leaders and answered their questions regarding test capabilities at Stennis.

Stennis Space Center, America's

largest rocket test complex, has a long history in rocket propulsion testing. In the 1960s the center tested the rocket boosters that took Americans to the Moon.

Today, the center remains at the forefront of space explo-

ration by testing the powerful main engines that lift the Space Shuttle on its 8½-minute flight to orbit.

Though rocket engine testing for the government has been the main focus of the center, new business opportunities for commercial customers exist across all platforms of operation within each test area of the A-, B- and E-complexes.

The A-Complex is currently being used to test and flight certify the Space Shuttle Main Engines; however, test operations are also available to the aerospace industry.

Stennis has adopted novel approaches to take advantage of the unique test capabilities at the center. For example, NASA has signed an unprecedented 20-year lease with The Boeing Company to use the B-1 test stand for testing its RS-68 engine that will power their Delta IV rocket.

"We offer rocket engine developers a spectrum of options in testing their hardware," said NASA's Richard Gilbrech, chief, Project Management Office in the Propulsion Test Directorate at Stennis. "This can range from simply being the landlord, as we are with The Boeing Company's RS-68 program, to providing turn-key test article assembly, checkout and hot-fire. As a neutral test agent, we can lower everyone's test costs by sharing overhead between competitors while pro-

tecting competitive interests."

The E-Complex — Stennis' developmental rocket engine component test facility comprised of three test stands with seven separate test cells — is the center's most

"Using the substantial propulsion test assets that were paid for by taxpayers, Stennis is supporting American industry in capturing world launch markets and thereby creating jobs that bolster our economy."

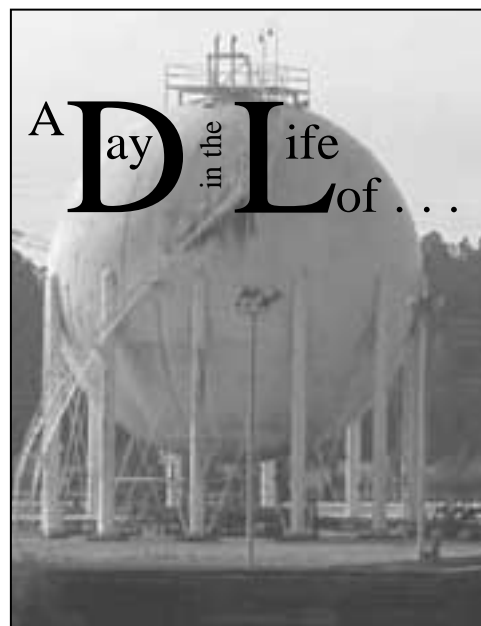
Deputy Director Mark Craig
Stennis Space Center

active facility.

Currently, there are 10 projects being tested, including programs in direct competition with one another for development of second-generation reusable launch vehicles. Both Pratt and Whitney and The Boeing Company are testing pre-burners for the COBRA and the RS-83 development engines as part of NASA's Space Launch Initiative (SLI). SLI is NASA's effort to reduce the risk associated with developing a second-generation reusable launch vehicle by defining, developing and testing technologies needed to improve safety and reduce NASA's mission price.

"We encourage propulsion test customers to visit Stennis Space Center anytime," said Robert Bruce, chief, New Business Development Office,

See **CUSTOMER**, Page 7



Stennis Space Center is the world's largest consumer of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH) for the purposes of rocket propulsion testing.

Annually, more than 8,159,000 gallons of LOX and 17,094,000 gallons of LH is received at the Propellant Storage Facility operated by Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Stennis Programs. In addition to LOX and LH, the facility also off-loads liquid nitrogen (LN) trailers at E-Complex.

Propellants are shipped in by trucks and delivered to test stands by barges.

"The quantity of propellants our crew receives is remarkable," Lockheed Martin's Anthony Taconi, director, Test and Engin-



The Cryogenic Propellant Storage Facility



eering Directorate at Stennis, said. "The amount of liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen used at Stennis last year is equal to 47 flights of the Space Shuttle. With more than 200 years of combined experience in the safe storage and handling of liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen and liquid nitrogen, the crew's experience represent an unprecedented factor in our support of the propulsion test operations."

Lockheed's Jody Knight, a biologist/chemist, is supervisor of the 15-man crew that runs two shifts, five days a week. Knight and his crew were awarded the Lockheed's Top Flight Award in January 2001 for their exceptional support of a record-breaking test schedule which, over a 30-day period, saw seven Space Shuttle Main Engine tests, four RS-68 tests and one test of the Boeing Common Booster Core.

A LH barge returning from the B-Complex prepares to dock at the Propellant Storage Facility. The barge is one of three LH barges used to support test operations in the A- and B-complexes. The barge holds 245,000 gallons of LH. A single 520-second test of a Space Shuttle Main Engine will burn 248 gallons of LH per second.

"These tests required off-loading 277 LOX tankers, 215 LH tankers and nine LN tankers. We connected, loaded, sampled, certified, disconnected and relocated 18 LOX and 19 LH barges," Knight said.

In 1995, Stennis constructed the Praxair sphere — a huge vacuum sphere — which stores 600,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen.

"Before we could store LH, we took barges down the intercoastal waterway to New Orleans by tug," Knight said.

The Clermont II, a 65-foot diesel, twin screw, 1,240 horsepower tug boat took the 5½-hour trip sometimes as often as twice a week. Today, the tug maneuvers six LOX and three LH barges through the canals to the test stands.

"The cryogenic crew provides an outstanding performance in supporting the test complexes with propellants," NASA's Stan Gill, A-, B-, E-complexes Operations lead, said.

"Their effort in operating and maintaining the barge fleet, which is one of a kind in the world, makes my job that much easier in supporting our customers."

Lockheed's Billy Davis, a test complex technician, hooks power to the LH barge as it docks at the storage facility. Davis is one of a 15-man crew that runs the Propellant Storage Facility at Stennis.



The Clermont II pushes a LOX barge up a portion of Stennis' 7½-mile-long canal system. The tug is piloted by Mississippi Space Services' Rocky Pullman. The Clermont has a crew of four— Pullman, a licensed captain, two pilots and a crewman.

StenniSphere celebrates the 32nd anniversary of Apollo 13



Top photo, Apollo astronaut Fred Haise, Jr., unveils the recently refurbished spacesuit he wore during the Apollo 13 mission. The suit was restored by the Smithsonian Institute as part of an effort to preserve all Apollo-era spacesuits.



Fred Haise Jr., signs six-year-old David Harris' space-suit during the 32nd anniversary celebration of the Apollo 13 mission at StenniSphere April 13.

Right photo, Astro Camp Saturday campers listen to NASA's Bill Spenny of Johnson Space Center demonstrate the steps necessary in putting on a Space Shuttle spacesuit. Spenny made comparisons of today's spacesuit to that of the suit worn 32 years ago by Apollo astronaut Fred Haise, Jr.



Irby published in national magazine for procurement professionals

When a national magazine for procurement professionals wanted to find out more about how NASA brought its procurement process to the World Wide Web, Gay Irby, chief, Information Management Branch Center Services Division, Center Operations and Support



Gay Irby

stepped up to the challenge. Irby wrote an article about the subject for the fall 2001 edition of the *Journal of the Association of Proposal Management Professionals*. Irby, a member of the NASA Acquisition Internet Service group at Stennis that brought the federal acquisition service online, was the perfect resource for this information.

The comprehensive piece Irby wrote tells

not only how the procurement process was developed and how it works on the Internet, but also conveys how personal initiative and innovation at NASA became the electronic procurement model for the Web.

Irby has been with Stennis' Information Technology group since she began working at the space center 15 years ago. Before that, she taught computer science at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast campus. She was the first full-time female faculty member to teach at USM and the first computer science instructor on the Coast. She ran the department for 10 years, until she left the university to come to Stennis.

Irby has blazed some trails along the way. "I had always thought that I wanted to teach," she said, noting that in the past there were few other choices for women. "When I was growing up, women were either teachers, nurses or homemakers."

In 1974, Irby earned a bachelor's degree in math with a teaching certificate from

Mississippi State University in Starkville and moved to Pensacola Fla., where she taught eighth grade for a year. But she returned home and told her father she wanted to go back to school to study computer science. Two years later, she had earned a master's degree in the field.

In September 2001, Irby became a technical manager at Stennis and is among NASA's top information technology professionals. It is a challenge she's enjoying. "I'm fortunate to have a group of very knowledgeable information technology professionals who work with me," she said. "Most of them have been in this group doing their jobs for a long time. They know a lot about what we do, so what I have preferred to do, in these first few months at least, is to let them do their jobs, not interfere too much and to let them come to me with any problems with which I can assist them."



Picayune High School's Team Technocracy won the Highest Rookie Seed award at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics competition in Houston, Texas. It was among five teams at the competition by Stennis personnel which included NASA's Scott Olive, Roy Worthly, Christine Powell, Bo Clark, James Cluff, Karma Snyder, Michele Beisler and Mississippi Space Services' Allen Forsman.

VISION. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The new NASA vision for the future: To improve life here. To extend life to there. To find life beyond.

The NASA mission: To understand and protect our home planet. To explore the Universe and search for life. To inspire the next generation of explorers...as only NASA can.

The Administrator also unveiled plans for a new type space explorer — an Educator Mission Specialist. Shortly after completion of the core elements of the International Space Station in 2004, NASA will send Barbara Morgan, the Agency's first Educator Mission Specialist, into space.

Morgan was the backup candidate in 1985 for the Teacher in Space program. The Teacher in Space program ended with

the Challenger incident Jan. 28, 1986, in which Christa McAuliffe and her six crewmates were killed.

"The time has come for NASA to complete the mission — to send an educator to space to inspire and teach our young people," Administrator O'Keefe said.

"Working in partnership with Education Secretary Rod Paige, we will make Barbara's flight the first in a series of missions in the new Educator in Space program."

The new vision for the agency builds on NASA's unique capabilities as the nation's premiere aeronautics and aerospace research and technology organization. "The biggest difference is that we will let specific science objectives tell us where to go," concluded O'Keefe. "NASA's mission of discovery will be carried out with a new commitment to fiscal responsibility and the synergy that comes from working with other government agencies, private industry and academia."

IFMP. . .

(Continued from Page 2)

third, NASA is rolling the program out in modules instead of all at one time. This time, NASA is adapting how it does business to the software, not the other way around."

The IFMP is divided into the following modules: core financial — supports a broad range of financial management

activities; resume management — manages recruiting and staffing efforts; travel management — streamlines the travel process; position description management — automates the preparation and classification of position descriptions; human resources — delivers a comprehensive infrastructure of human resource capabilities; and budget formulation — supports budget development and interfaces with core financial requirements to establish cost accounting controls.

BLOCK II. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

development and production of the shuttle's "new" main engines.

"The Space Shuttle Main engine is the world's most reliable and thoroughly tested large-scale rocket engine ever built," NASA's George Hopson, manager of the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., said. "Making improvements to the main engines is an evolving process. With this design change, we believe we have more than doubled the reliability of the engine."

The SSME, the only operational, reusable liquid-booster engine designed for human space flight, is manufactured by Boeing Rocketdyne, Canoga Park, Calif. Acceptance testing is performed at Stennis. NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., manages the SSME program.

CUSTOMER. . .

(Continued from Page 4)

Propulsion Test Directorate, organizer of Customer Day 2002.

"This type interchange allows us to showcase our capabilities, ask customers what potential test requirements they may have, and seek input on what type test capabilities will best meet their needs, both current and future. We plan to conduct this event annually, and next year's event is already scheduled for February 25-26, 2003."

"This was a good opportunity for the industry to take a look at Stennis," Boeing Rocketdyne's Steven Fisher, senior engineer from Canoga Park, Calif., said. "I was pleased to see the strides made in business management over the last ten years. It used to be this was NASA's facility and we didn't come here looking for to test our own programs. This is now a whole new arena."

The unique capabilities provided by the propulsion test facilities at Stennis can also be an asset to the local economy.

"Stennis Space Center is building on our experience and capability in the rocket testing business," Stennis Deputy Director Mark Craig said. "Using our substantial propulsion test assets that were paid for by taxpayers, Stennis is supporting American industry in capturing world launch markets and thereby creating jobs which bolster our economy."



Tips to making safety a working habit

Safe work habits can make the workday go more smoothly. From the start of the day to the end, practice safe work routines.

- Start the day by checking work areas for hazards. Is there anything different about the area since last shift? Perhaps renovations are under way or equipment was damaged during the previous shift.
- Remove or report hazards that can cause trips or slips. Watch for objects on the floor and in traffic areas, as well as slippery walking surfaces.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment. This may include a hard hat, gloves, safety boots, protective eyewear and a respirator — depending on the job.
- Be aware of fire hazards. Clean up clutter and accumulations of trash. Smoke only in designated areas.
- Prevent back injuries by learning to lift safely. Get help when lifting heavy objects.
- Beware of machine hazards. Never tamper with a machine guard.
- Get enough sleep and rest before working.
- Complete the shift by tidying up the work area, shutting down machinery and appliances as instructed and checking for potential hazards to repair or report.
- Never walk away from an unsafe condition at the end of a shift.

QUICK LOOK

■ **Stennis' observation of the annual "Take Our Daughters to Work" program** will be Thursday, April 25. For information, contact Rhonda Foley at Ext. 8-1081.

■ **Reservations for NASA Ski Week XII** are now being accepted. For information, contact Charlotte Timmons at Ext. 8-2731 or ctimmons@ssc.nasa.gov.

■ **The Center for Higher Learning at Stennis and USM-Gulf Coast** have opened registration for two fiber optic courses: Introduction to Fiber Optics, May 5-8 and Advanced Fiber Optics, May 12-18. For information call (228) 867-8778.

■ **The Occupational Health Services Division** is sponsoring the annual Stennis Health and Wellness Fair May 15 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in front of the cafeteria in Bldg. 1100. For information, call Tim Donohoe at Ext. 8-3005.

■ **The Christmas in April Hancock County Program is looking for volunteers** for its sixth annual community project April 27. For information or to volunteer, contact Becky Rotundo at Ext. 8-5328.

■ **MBA courses at the Stennis Center for Higher Learning** will begin this fall for undergraduate business majors. For more information, contact Keith Long via e-mail at Keith.Long@usm.edu or call Ext 8-7662.

EPA. . .

(Continued from Page 1)

learn of Stennis' selection to the EPA's Performance Track program," Mississippi's Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Charles Chisolm, said. "Stennis is in the forefront of environmental leadership in the state."

Stennis is the second NASA center to participate in the program, following the lead of Johnson Space Center's White Sands Test Facility, Las Cruces, N.M., which joined in December 2000.

To participate in the national program, facilities must have adopted and implemented an environmental management system, committed to improving their environmental performance, committed to public outreach and performance reporting and have an established record of sustained compliance with environmental requirements.

Participation in the program enables facilities to implement flexible and potentially more efficient approaches to environmental protection.

Participating facilities will receive several incentives in return for their environmental commitments.

Incentives include low priority for routine inspections, discretionary factor in the assessment of penalties, access to EPA conferences, workshops and information sessions with senior EPA officials to share lessons learned.

LAGNIAPPE

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